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NEWS

Air Pollution

[Court Upholds Approval of Illinois Emissions Program](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency did not act in an arbitrary or a capricious manner when it approved a revised motor vehicle emissions testing program in Illinois, a federal appeals court ruled (*Indiana v. EPA*, 2015 BL 254652, 7th Cir.,...).

Air Pollution

[EPA to Address Supreme Court MATS Ruling by Spring 2016](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency intends to address a recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on the legality of the mercury and air toxics standards by spring 2016, the agency told a federal appeals court Aug. 10 (White Stallion Energy Ctr....).

Air Pollution

[Study Says China Pollution Hurts U.S. Air Quality](#)

Chinese air pollution is blowing across the Pacific Ocean and partly offsetting clean air measures taken in California, according to Dutch and U.S. researchers....

Asbestos

[Oakfabco Files Ch. 11 to Deal With Asbestos Claims](#)

Oakfabco Inc., which years ago made boilers, filed a Chapter 11 petition on Aug. 7 in Chicago to deal with 3,400 asbestos claims (*In re Oakfabco Inc.*, Bankr. N.D. Ill., No. 15-27062, 8/7/15)....

Chemicals

[CDC Seeks Environmental, Public Health Experts](#)

Toxicologists, epidemiologists, public health specialists, risk assessors and other health-care and scientific experts are being sought to advise an environmental health division of the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control. The...

Climate Change

UN Says Kyoto Protocol Countries 'Exceeded' Goals

Near-final accounting for the 2008–2012 commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol showed parties "collectively exceeded their original ambitions by a large margin," the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change....

Climate Regulation

Clean Power Plan Extensions Have Catch: Outreach

States seeking additional time to develop compliance strategies for the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan must first show that they have engaged with minority and at-risk populations....

Climate Regulation

EPA to Propose De Minimis Permit Threshold in 2016

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to propose a de minimis threshold for its greenhouse gas permitting program in June 2016 after a federal appellate court denied industry groups' petitions to rehear lawsuits over the program....

Climate Regulation

Virginia House Speaker Backs Power Plant Review Bill

Legislation will be introduced for the 2016 Virginia General Assembly session that would require legislative approval of the Virginia executive branch's plan for complying with the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power...

Coal Mining

Interior Announces Stream Protection Rule Hearings

The Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement announced Aug. 10 the schedule for its six public hearings on its proposed stream protection rule and the related draft environmental impact statement....

Drinking Water

New York City to Propose Legionella Control Model

Acting in the wake of a Legionnaires' disease outbreak, New York City is drafting legislation for measures to control the legionella bacterium in large building cooling towers, Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) and City Council Speaker Melissa...

Drinking Water

Obama Signs Bill to Control Harmful Algal Blooms

President Barack Obama signed into law a bill (H.R. 212) to control harmful algal blooms in drinking water. The Senate passed the bill, previously approved by the House, on Aug. 5 (152 DEN A-16, 8/7/15). The legislation, signed Aug. 7, requires...

Endangered Species

Appeals Court Limits Demand for Details in Notice of Intent to Sue

A plaintiff filing a notice of intent to sue the U.S. Forest Service did not need to provide a precise list of projects for the lawsuit, a U.S. appeals court ruled Aug. 10 in reversing a district court decision (Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Ctr....

Hazardous Waste

Shipyard's Benzene Suit Against Steel Mill Timely

A shipyard can proceed with new environmental contamination claims against the new owner of a neighboring steel mill, even though a prior ruling dismissed nearly identical claims as time-barred, a federal district court ruled Aug. 7 (SPS...

Hydraulic Fracturing

[British Columbia Updates Seismic Event Response](#)

The British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission approved amendments to the provincial Drilling and Production Regulation Aug. 6 to streamline definitions and toughen existing rules. Highlights include listing actions to be taken in the event...

International Climate

[Taiwan Readies 2030 Pledge to Climate Accord](#)

Taiwan is readying a formal pledge to a global climate accord that nearly 200 nations are to sign at end-of-year United Nations talks in Paris, the country's environment minister told Bloomberg BNA Aug. 10. ...

Pesticides

[Judge Denounces EPA's Pesticide Ban Delays](#)

A federal appeals court judge harshly criticized the Environmental Protection Agency for using stall tactics to avoid making a decision on whether to ban the insecticide chlorpyrifos, originally developed by Dow AgroSciences and now used...

Pipeline Safety

[Plastic Pipe Proposal Draws Industry Concern](#)

Several pipeline companies and associations called for a federal agency to remove from a rule proposed in May requirements intended to improve natural gas transmission and distribution systems operators' ability to locate and track...

Renewable Energy

[U.S. Wind Energy Continues Growth, DOE Reports Find](#)

The total installed wind power capacity in the U.S. grew by 8 percent from 2013 to 2014, reaching a total of nearly 66 gigawatts of wind capacity, according to new reports from the Energy Department. ...

Risk Assessment

[Sterilant Causes Cancer, Ammonia Harms Lungs, Board Says](#)

A chemical used to sterilize medical equipment and spices can cause leukemia, breast and other cancers while ammonia can damage lungs, a panel of scientists advising the Environmental Protection Agency confirmed....

Superfund

[Move to Modify N.J. Superfund Settlement Nixed](#)

Penalties imposed for missed payments under a Superfund consent decree won't be waived due to the bankruptcy of some parties to the settlement, obligations imposed under another consent decree related to the site or the federal government's...

Sustainability

[British Columbia Issues New Parks Permits Policy](#)

A new policy for issuing investigative use and research permits under British Columbia's Parks Act will ensure that provincial parks and protected areas remain off-limits to new industrial activity, according to the Ministry of Environment....

Water Pollution

[CBF Won't Appeal Virginia Stream Fencing Ruling](#)

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation will not appeal a Virginia commonwealth court decision saying the Department of Environmental Quality doesn't have to issue a rule requiring farmers to keep cattle out of streams and rivers, CBF senior attorney...

Water Pollution

Discharge Permits Upheld For Everglades Sugar Farms

Water discharge permits for South Florida sugar cane farms don't violate the state's Everglades protection laws, despite nearby waters continuing to exceed the allowable phosphorus limit, a state appeals court ruled (Fla. Audubon...)

Water Pollution

EPA Estimates Colorado Mine Release at 3 Million Gallons

The Environmental Protection Agency says the release of toxic mine waste into the Animas River in southwest Colorado is estimated to be 3 million gallons—three times as large as initially thought.

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Water Pollution

Olympic Boating Races Pose Health Risks, Experts Say

Scientists and environmental advocates warn that boating events at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro may pose a health risk because of sewage contamination in the bay and lagoon where the races will be held....

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